

APPENDIX A

Invitation from Chief Justice George



Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts

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RONALD M. GEORGE
CHIEF JUSTICE OF CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE

COURTS

CHAIR OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

Hon. John E. Martin
Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court of California,
County of Calaveras
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

Dear Presiding Judge Martin:

As we reviewed the Community-Based Strategic Plans prepared by the courts last year, it became clear to the Judicial Council that the growing number of self-represented litigants is having a significant impact on trial courts throughout California.

To help the courts respond to this concern, the Administrative Office of the Courts applied for and received funding from the State Justice Institute and the Foundation of the State Bar of California to help support regional conferences on the needs of self-represented litigants. These conferences, co-sponsored by the California Commission on Access to Justice and the State Bar of California, will be designed to help local courts:

- Clarify the special concerns the courts face in responding to self-represented litigants
- Identify services that are already available in their community
- Learn about successful models that similarly sized and situated courts have employed to serve self-represented litigants
- Discuss issues related to establishment of self-help centers, services by clerks, and case management, as well as ethical issues for judges and other concerns facing the court
- See demonstrations of new technology that can assist self-represented litigants
- Identify funding opportunities for services for self-represented litigants
- Establish partnerships with the local bar, legal services programs, libraries and others concerned with serving self-represented litigants

We believe that these conferences will present an excellent opportunity to flesh out the concepts set forth in many of the action plans and requests for funding that the council received from the courts this year.

To that end, I am requesting that you appoint two persons from your court to spearhead this effort. One should be either yourself as presiding judge or another judge whom you designate; the other should be a court administrator charged with working on the issue of self-represented litigants.

We will ask these contact persons to perform two tasks:

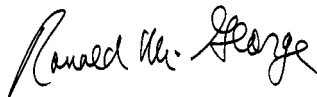
- Identify those persons in your community who should be invited to the conference
- Coordinate your court's efforts in developing an action plan for serving self-represented litigants

There will be no cost to attendees for the conference. Travel expenses for this meeting will be compensated for the judge and the court administrator, and scholarship assistance will be available for travel expenses for other attendees.

Please see the enclosed flyer for additional information on the dates and locations of the conferences.

I appreciate your support of these conferences. They are a critical part of the judiciary's commitment to ensuring access to justice for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ronald M. George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" being the most prominent.

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council

RMG/BRH/rr